

CHANGES IN THE FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST NEWS SERVICE

June 2, 1997 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org) -

Greetings friends. I trust all is well.

The Fundamental Baptist News Service began in October 1995 with less than one hundred names on the mailing list. At that time it was possible for me to do all of the work associated with this daily mailing, including researching, writing and typing the material, converting it into the proper format, corresponding with those who wanted to communicate with me, and maintaining the mailing list database. As time has passed, though, and the direct mailing list has blossomed and the material reaches a daily audience estimated at two thousand, it has become impossible for me to handle the avalanche of mail associated with the Service. I would remind my readers that the FBNS is not my sole occupation. We also publish the monthly O Timothy magazine and four or five new books each year; we travel and preach in churches; we have a large family and an active ministry in our church.

We have been trying to come up with a solution to the problem associated with the electronic News Service. In December 1996 we began requesting a quarterly offering from those who receive the material, hoping that this would meet the need so we could afford to hire someone to help with this ministry. The response has not been large, but it has helped us hire a part-time secretary. For this we praise the Lord.

Even with this help, we are still forced to make some hard decisions in regard to the direction of this news service, I have decided to maintain it for the present but with the following changes:

(1) AS A RULE I WILL NO LONGER REPLY TO E-MAIL. I have attempted to keep up with the deluge of questions, but it is eating up too much of my time. Further, many people have gotten angry at me because I do not reply to their letters or I did not reply as punctually as they would have preferred. They usually say, "I know you are very busy BUT..." Each person thinks he is a special exception! I really wish I could reply to all of the people who want to communicate with me, but I do not know how this is humanly possible in this age of instant international electronic mail. Therefore, while you are still welcome to write to me, my normal policy will be NOT to reply to e-mail. Many other busy editors have been forced to curtail their e-mail communication in this way.

(2) THE MAINTENANCE OF THE MAILING LIST IS BEING PUT INTO THE HANDS OF A PART-TIME SECRETARY WHO HAS JOINED US IN RECENT WEEKS. This means that additions, changes, and deletions from the mailing list will not happen as quickly as they have until now. She does not work every day or even every other day. I regret any time lag that this will create in the maintenance of the list, but it is unavoidable.